

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This case has been carefully reviewed and analyzed in view of the Official Action dated 16 June 2004. Responsive to the rejections made in the Official Action, Claims 1, 3 and 4 have been amended and Claim 5 has been cancelled.

In the Official Action, the Examiner rejected Claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner stated that Claim 4 included the limitation “the interval distance” for which there was sufficient antecedent basis. The Examiner stated for purposes of examination, it would be assumed that the interval distance was the second interval.

Accordingly, Claim 4 has been amended to correct the term “the interval distance” to be -- the second interval --. Additionally, Claim 4 has been further amended to clarify the language thereof. Thus, it is now believed that the claims particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that Applicant regards as the invention.

In the Official Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1 – 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102, as being anticipated by Loewen, U.S. Patent No. 5,116,237.

Before discussing the prior art relied upon by the Examiner, it is believed beneficial to first briefly review the structure of the invention of the subject Patent Application, as now claimed. The invention of the subject Patent Application is

directed to a contact assembly with non-coplanarity arrangement. The contact assembly includes a plurality of contacts stamped integrally in a piece of sheet metal. Each contact is formed by a solder portion extending to a connected portion and a conductive portion extending from the connected portion. The solder portions of the plurality of contacts are aligned side-by-side. The connected portions each are extended upward from a free-end of a respective solder portion. The conductive portions of the plurality of contacts are aligned to together define an arc shaped envelope. The contact assembly also includes a contact belt removably joined to the solder portions of the plurality of contacts.

In contradistinction, the Loewen reference is directed to a printed circuit board edge connector wherein sheet material is stamped to form a plurality of contacts, each contact having a solder portion 50 that extends to a connected portion 44 and a conductive portion 34 which extends from the connected portion. However, as clearly shown in the drawings, the conductive portions of the plurality of contacts together define a linearly directed envelope, the socket portions 34 being aligned and thus to be positioned to receive the straight edge of a respective circuit board 92, 94.

Whereas in the invention of the subject Patent Application, the conductive portions of the plurality of contacts are aligned to together define an arc shaped envelope, the arc-shaped contour of the envelope formed by the plurality of conductive portions coincide with the cylindrical contour of the light pen into

which the contacts are assembled. Thus, as the reference fails to disclose each and every one of the elements of the invention of the subject Patent Application, it cannot anticipate that invention. Further, as the reference fails to suggest such a combination of elements, it cannot make obvious that invention either.

Claim 3 has been amended to include the limitation of the plane of the conductive portion being at an angle with respect to the plane of the solder portion and Claim 5 has been cancelled by this Amendment.

For all the foregoing reasons, it is now believed that the subject Patent Application has been placed in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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AMENDMENT TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached drawing sheet includes a change to Fig. 3 and replaces the original drawing sheet having 3 thereon. In Fig. 3, broken lines have been added to allow better visualization of the angle, now identified as "A" that was originally shown in the drawing and described in the Specification.

Attachment: One replacement sheet.